



# Austro-Hungarian Orders, Medals and Decorations Volume II: Pre-1848 Awards Part III, 1740-1766



by Richard R. Lussier, Dr.P.H.









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# Introduction



This section will cover the awards issued from 1740 to 1766. During this period (1740 until 1745) Austria was ruled by Maria Theresia as Archduchess of Austria and Queen of Hungary. She then ruled Austria with her husband Franz Stephan von Lothringian from 1745 until his death in 1765. During this second portion of her reign she ruled as Empress Consort, Archduchess of Austria and Queen of Hungary. During this period medals and decorations were issued with the image on the obverse of Maria Theresia, Franz I and from 1765-66 the image of her son as Joseph II, Holy Roman Emperor. This document will only concern itself with awards that were issued to reward military accomplishments or services rendered in support of the empire that were of a military nature.









(Maria Theresia Gnadenmedaille)





Type I

**Date Issued:** 1740 –1754

**Reason Issued:** As a reward for especially meritorious service to the Empress

**Classes or Types:** Three classes with three subdivisions in the gold and silver classes

• Large Gold, Gold and Small Gold Medal

• Large Silver, Silver and Small Silver Medal

• Bronze Medal

#### **Interesting Facts:**

Maria Theresia was the first ruler to issue clear regulations for the award of medals

• The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus "grace" should be interpreted as "honor" therefore the title in today's terminology would be the Imperious Maria Theresia Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

**Design:** An oval medal with a raised rim and an attached suspension eyes at the top.

Obverse: Inside a raised rim is a bust of the Archduchess Maria Theresia, facing to the viewers right and wearing a gown clasped at the shoulder. The empress is wearing a diadem and has long flowing curly hair. The medal has a raised rim. Paralleling the rim around the upper two thirds of the medal is the inscription: MARIA THERESIA D. CAR. CAES. FIL. HUNG. & BOH. REX. ARCH. AUST. On the bottom edge of the medal in smaller letters is the name of the medal engraver: M. DONNER. f. or D. Becker f. (the f stands for fabrikat: manufactured)

Reverse: Inside a raised rim is the Lion of Bohemia with St. Wenzel's crown on his head standing on a stylized platform. The lion holds in its right paw the Hungarian Patriarchs Cross. Its left paw rests on the Austrian Herald's shield. Paralleling the top edge of the medal is an inscription: IUSTITIA ET CLEMENTIA. Translation: Justice and Clemency.

#### Weight:

• Large Gold Medal: 29-50 Ducats (104-180 grams)

• Gold Medal: 14-20 Ducats (50-70 grams)

• Small Gold Medal: 12-15 Ducats (42-54 grams)

Large Silver Medal: 87.5 grams

• Silver: 52.5 grams

• Small Silver Medal: 26-35 grams

Bronze Medal: 75.5 grams







(Maria Theresia Gnadenmedaille)





#### Size:

- Large Gold Medal: 68-69 mm by 60 mm
- Gold Medal: 57 mm by 49-50 mm
- Small Gold Medal: 48 mm by 42 mm
- Large Silver Medal: 69 mm by 60 mm
- Silver Medal: 48-57 mm by 42-50 mm
- Small Silver Medal: 48 mm by 42 mm
- Bronze Medal: 52-58 mm by 48-49 mm

Type of Material: Gold, silver and bronze

#### Variations:

- Type I: As described above
- Type II: As described except with the following inscription on the obverse: MARIA THERESIA D.G. ROM. IMP. GER. HUNG. & BOH. **RE. ARCH. AUST.** And the makers name as **M.D.f** (Matthaus Donner with the f standing for Fabrikat) The gold and silver medal have been seen in this variation.
- Type III: As described above except the makers name appears as **P**. Becker f (Philipp Christopher Becker) with the f standing for Fabrikat.
- Type IV: As described above except the makers name appears as Donner
- Type V: As described above except without suspension eye (table medal) See Table Medals Part I, pages 98&99)

#### **Designer:**

- Medals of all types: Matthaus Donner
- Gold and silver medal: Philipp Christoph Becker

**Manufacturer:** Philipp Christoph Becker (1675-1743), Matthaus Donner (1704-1765), Giuseppe Toda (1710-1768, Anton Wideman (1724-1792)

and Christian Vinazer (1747-1782).

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown











(Maria Theresia Gnadenmedaille)



**Type II Obverse** 

Ribbon: The gold medal could be worn on a gold chain or on a dark rose red ribbon while the silver medal was always worn on a red ribbon

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known



Type II Medal on chain







#### Maria Theresia Bohemian Honor Medal

(Maria Theresia Bohmish Gnadenmedaille)





Image courtesy of H.D. Rauch

Date Issued: 1743

Reason Issued: This medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the Empress and her dynastic

goals

Classes or Types: One

**Interesting Facts:** The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus "grace" should be interpreted as "honor" therefore the title in today's terminology would be the Imperious Maria Theresia Bohemian Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

**Design:** An oval medal with an attached suspension eyes at the top.

**Obverse:** A bust of the Archduchess Maria Theresia, facing to the viewers right and wearing a gown clasped at the shoulder. The empress is wearing a diadem and has long flowing curly hair. Paralleling the rim around the upper two thirds of the medal is the inscription: **M. THER. D. CAR CAES. FIL.** 

HU & BOH. REX ET.AR. AUST.

**Reverse:** Inside a raised rim is the Lion of Bohemia with St. Wenzel's crown on his head standing on a stylized platform. The lion holds in its right paw the Hungarian Patriarchs Cross. Its left paw rests on the Austrian Herald's shield. Paralleling the top edge of the medal is an inscription: **IUSTITIA ET** 

**CLEMENTIA.** Translation: Justice and Clemency.

#### Weight:

• Large Gold Medal: 14-20 Ducats (50-70 grams)

• Gold Medal: 14-20 Ducats (50-70 grams), 62.5 Ducats (218.3 grams) in-

cluding the chain **Size:** 54 by 40 mm

Type of Material: Gold
Variations: None known
Designer: Matthaus Donner
Manufacturer: Unknown
Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown Ribbon: A gold chain of interlocking links

**Attachments:** None **Miniature:** None known









#### Franz I Honor Medal

(Franz I Gnadenmedaille)





**Date Issued:** 1745-1765

**Reason Issued:** As a reward for especially meritorious service to the Emperor

Classes or Types: Three • Large Gold Medal

Gold Medal

• Silver Medal

#### **Interesting Facts:**

- These medals were occasionally mounted in elaborate suspension pendants which were in turn suspended from a chain
- The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus "grace" should be interpreted as "honor" therefore the title in today's terminology would be the Imperious Maria Theresia Honor Medal
- This medal was nicknamed the Frankfurt Honor Medal to distinguish it from the Maria Theresia Honor Medal
- This medal was issued as a wearable medal and as a table medal.

Hallmarks: None Known

**Design:** A round medal with an attached suspension eyes at the top.

**Obverse:** The bust of the ruler with long flowing hair in armor, with the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece, facing the viewers right. Around the bust is an inscription starting at the 7 o'clock position and ending at the 5 o'clock position. The inscription reads FRANCISCUS. I. D. G. ROM. IMP.S.A. GERM. HI-ER. REX. LOTH. BAR. ET. M.HEIR.DUX.

Reverse: Bears the symbols of the empire: the ancient imperial jewels (imperial crown, Scepter, Sword and Imperial Orb) resting on a platform, above which is the eye of God, above which is the inscription DEO ET IMPERIO. Translation: God and the Ruler.

Weight:

• Large Gold Medal: 24 Ducats (86.4 grams)

• Gold Medal: 5 Ducats (18 grams) • Large Silver Medal: 35 grams • Silver Medal: 13.1 grams







#### Franz I Honor Medal

(Franz I Gnadenmedaille)







#### Size:

• Large Gold Medal: 49 mm in diameter

• Gold Medal: 32 mm in diameter

• Large silver Medal: 45 mm in diameter

• Silver Medal: 32 mm in diameter Type of Material: Gold and silver

Variations: As described above except without suspension eye (table medal) See Table Medals Part I, pages

104&105)

**Designer:** Unknown Manufacturer: • Matthaus Donner

• Franz Xaver Wurth (Wirth) 1749-1813)

• Giuseppe Toda Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown Ribbon: Red **Attachments:** None Miniature: None known







(Maria Theresia Gnadenmedaille)







Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac

**Date Issued:** 1754 –1765

**Reason Issued:** As a reward for especially meritorious service to the Empress

Classes or Types: Two classes with three subdivisions

• Large Gold, Gold and Small Gold Medal

• Large Silver, Silver and Small Silver Medal

#### **Interesting Facts:**

• Maria Theresia was the first ruler to issue clear regulations for the award of medals

• The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus "grace" should be interpreted as "honor" therefore the title in today's terminology would be the Imperious Maria Theresia Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

**Design:** A round medal with a raised rim and an attached suspension eyes at the top.

**Obverse:** Inside a raised rim is a bust of the Archduchess Maria Theresia, facing to the viewers right and wearing a gown clasped at the shoulder. The empress is wearing a diadem and has long flowing curly hair. The medal has a raised rim. Paralleling the rim around the upper three fourths of the medal is the inscription: **MARIA THERESIA D.G. ROM. IMP. GER. HUNG. & BOH. RE. ARCH. AUST.** Translation: Maria Theresia with the grace of God Roman Empress of Germany, Hungary and Bohemia Queen and Archduchess of Austria. On the bottom edge of the medal in smaller letters is the name of the medal engraver: **G.Toda. F.** (Giuseppe Toda with the F standing for Fabrikat which means manufactured)

**Reverse:** Inside a raised rim is the Lion of Bohemia with St. Wenzel's crown on his head standing on a stylized platform. The lion holds in its right paw the Hungarian Patriarchs cross. Its left paw rests on the Austrian Herald's shield. Paralleling the top edge of the medal is an inscription: **IUSTITIA ET CLEMENTIA.** Translation: Justice and Clemency.

#### Weight:

• Large Gold Medal: 15 Ducats (52.5 grams)

• Gold Medal: 10 Ducats (35 grams)

• Small Gold Medal: 5 Ducats (17.5 grams)

Large Silver Medal: 35 grams

• Silver: 26 grams

• Small Silver Medal: 17.5 grams







(Maria Theresia Gnadenmedaille)





#### Size:

• Large Gold Medal: 48 mm in diameter

• Gold Medal: 39 mm in diameter

• Small Gold Medal: 33 mm in diameter

• Large Silver Medal: 48 mm in diameter

• Silver Medal: 39 mm in diameter

• Small Silver Medal: 33 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold and Silver

Variations: None Known

**Designer:** Medals of all types: Giuseppe Toda

Manufacturer: Unknown Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: Dark Rose Red **Attachments:** None Miniature: None known









# Introduction Part II 1745-1765

This Section will cover the awards issued from 1745 to 1766. During this time period Austria was ruled by Archduchess, Empress and Queen Maria Theresia and her husband Franz Stephan von Lothringian. Upon his death she ruled Austria as Co-Regent with her son who assumed the title of Joseph II. During this period of her reign medals and decorations were issued with the image of Maria Theresia, Franz I and Joseph II on the obverse.









#### **Peace of Aachen Commemoration Medal**

(Freiden von Aachen Erinnerung Medaille)





**Date Issued:** 1748

Reason Issued: To commemorate the peace of Aachen treaty that brought about the end of the Wars of Austrian Succession fought in Silesia, Italy, and Western Europe including the Austrian dominions in the Netherlands

Classes or Types: One

**Interesting Facts:** None known

Hallmarks: None known

**Design:** A round medal with a flat loop suspension eye at the top

Obverse: A bust of the Archduchess Maria Theresia, facing to the viewers right and wearing a gown clasped at the shoulder. The bust of the empress is wearing a diadem and has long flowing curly hair. Paralleling the rim around the upper two thirds of the medal is the inscription: MAR. TH. D. IMP. HUNG. BOH. REG. Translation: Maria Theresia German Empress Hungarian Bohemian Queen. Below the shoulder of the bust is a small capital latter **R** for Rosnavia, a medal designer and manufacturer in Hungary.

Reverse: A crowned Habsburg eagle and the inscription PERPETUUM FIDEL MONUMENTUM 1748.

Translation: Remember forever.

Weight: 8 grams

Size: 27 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold plated silver

Variations: None known **Designer:** Rosnavia

Manufacturer: The Antwerp mint Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: Seven equal stripes alternating black and gold. Thus three gold

stripes on a black field **Attachments:** None Miniature: None known









## **Commemorating Medal for the Construction of the** Military Invalids Hospital in Vienna

(Erinnerungsmedaille an den Bau des Militär -Invalidenhauses in Wienn)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Date Issued: 1750

**Reason Issued:** To commemorate the construction of the hospital for military invalids in Vienna in 1750

Classes or Types: Two classes, silver and bronze

**Interesting Facts:** None Known

Hallmarks: None Known

**Design:** A round medal with a flat stylized suspension eye at the top

Obverse: A raised rim inside of which is the imperial coat of arms consisting of the Habsburg eagle with the Archdukes crown above its head and a shield with the Habsburg coat of arms on its breast above which is an

Archduke's crown.

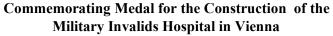


Obverse of the bronze medal Image courtesy of Dorotheum











(Erinnerungsmedaille an den Bau des Militär -Invalidenhauses in Wienn )



#### **Reverse of the Bronze Medal**

Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Reverse: Inside of a raised rim is a depiction of the hospital. Superimposed on the image of the hospital is a soldier with a crutch in a supplicating pose. Above and behind the soldier is a memorial of arms composed of flags of conquered nations, shields, cannon and a suit of armor. The French and Turkish flag are recognizable. Following the upper edge of the medal is the inscription PROVIDENTIA AUGUSTAE Translation: The Care of the Empress. In three lines below the wounded soldier appears the inscription MILES EMERITUS/CONDIGNE NUTRITUS/MDCCL. Translation: Provided for Worthy Veteran Soldiers 1750.

#### Weight:

• Silver medal: 70 grams • Bronze Medal: 35 grams Size: 60 mm in diameter

**Type of Material**: Bronze and silver

Variations: None known **Designer:** Unknown Manufacturer: Unknown Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A 39 mm straight ribbon which is half red and half white

**Attachments:** None Miniature: None known







#### **Death of Franz I Commemoration Medal**

(Medaille zum Tod von Franz I)





Date Issued: 1765

Reason Issued: To commemorate the death of Maria Theresia's husband Franz I.

Classes or Types: Three • Large Gold Honor Medal

Gold Honor Medal

Silver Honor Medal

### **Interesting Facts:**

- These medals were also issued as table medals
- The word Gnaden (grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus "grace" should be interpreted as "honor" thus the title in today's terminology would be the Imperious Maria Theresia Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None known

**Design:** A round medal with a flat stylized suspension eye at the top

**Obverse:** Inside a raised rim is the the bust of Franz I facing to the viewers right and wearing armor and a cloak with the collar of the order of the Golden Fleece. Around the image is inscribed FRANCISCUS, D.G. ROM. IMP. S.A. GERM HIER.REX.LOTH.BAR. ET. M. HETR. DUX.

Reverse: Inside a raised rim is the bust of the Archduchess Maria Theresia, facing to the viewers right and wearing a gown clasped at the shoulder. The bust of the empress is wearing widows Vail and a diadem and has long flowing curly hair. The medal has a raised rim. Paralleling the rim around the upper two thirds of the medal is the inscription: M THERESIA .D G. ROM . IMP. HUNG . & BOH. REG. ARCH. AUST. Translation: Maria Theresia with the graced of God Roman Empress, Hungarian and Bohemian Queen, Archduchess of Austria. Below the bust at about the 6 o'clock position are the initials of the designer A.W. (Anton Franz Wiedemann)

#### Weight:

• Large Gold Honor Medal: 15 ducats (52.4 grams)

• Gold Honor Medal: 10 Ducats (33.4 grams)

• Silver Honor Medal: 25.5 grams

• Large Gold Honor Medal: 47.5 mm in diameter

• Gold Honor Medal: 42.5 mm in diameter

• Silver Honor Medal: 33 mm in diameter

**Type of Material**: Gold and Silver

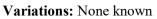






# Hungarian Homage Medal

(Ungarn Huldigungsmedaille)



Designer: Anton Franz Wiedemann Manufacturer: Unknown Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown Ribbon: None Attachments: None Miniature: None known







## Joseph II Honor Medal, Virtue and Example

(Joseph II Gnadenkmedaille, Virtute Et Exemplo)







**Date Issued:** 1764-1780

**Reason Issued:** Issued by Joseph II on the occasion of his election as the Holy Roman Emperor as a reward for the outstanding merit by Austrian military commanders and other soldiers of the Austrian armed forces, which Maria Theresia had placed under his command.

Classes or Types: Three

- Large Gold Medal
- Large Silver Medal
- Silver Medal

#### **Interesting Facts:**

- This was the first medal that was issued as a true national award for merit. Prior to this award medals were issued as personal signs of recognition by the rulers of the Austrian Empire. This was an award from the nation for service to the nation. Thus all later Austro-Hungarian awards can trace their lineage to the award of these medals.
- The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus "grace" should be interpreted as "honor" therefore the title in today's terminology would be the Emperor Joseph II Honor Medal for Virtue and Example
- From 1765 when this decoration was established until 1790 when it was discontinued, 14 variations of the award were issued.
- The period on which this decoration was issued covered the time from 1764-1766 when Joseph II was the Roman King, Similar medals with slightly different inscriptions were issued from 1766-1780 when Joseph II served as Emperor and Co-Regent and 1780-1790 when he was Emperor and ruler of Austria
- This medal was issued as a wearable medal with a suspension ring and as a table medal.
- Bronze medals are copies that were made for exhibition and the collector trade

Hallmarks: None Known

**Design:** A round medal with an attached flat round stylized suspension eye at the top.

**Obverse:** A youthful bust of Joseph II, facing to the viewers right. He is portrayed with long flowing hair in which is a laurel wreath near the temples. He is dressed in an armor breastplate with and an ermine mantel and wears the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece. Paralleling the rim around the upper two-thirds of the medal is the inscription: **IOSEPHVS II. D.G. ROM. REX. S.A.GERM.REX HVNG.BOH. &C. PRIN.** 

**HERED. A. A. &C.** near the lower edge of the medal is the signature of the medalist: **A. Wideman** (Anton Wideman)





## Joseph II Honor Medal, Virtue and Example

(Joseph II Gnadenkmedaille, Virtute Et Exemplo)





**Reverse:** The eye of God (a triangle with eye surrounded by a wreath of rays) overlooking a globe surrounded by clouds. Superimposed on the globe are a sword and a rudder which are crossed. Both are interwoven with boughs of oak and laurel. Along the top margin of the medal, above the eye of God is the inscription: **VIRTVTE ET EXEMPLO.** Translation: Virtue and example.

#### Weight:

• Gold Medal: 84 grams or 24 Ducats (known to exist in 15 and 20 Ducat versions)

Large Silver Medal: 54 grams
Silver Medal: 35-40 grams
Bronze Medal: Unknown

#### Size:

• Gold Medal: 50 mm in diameter

• Large Silver Medal: 50 mm in diameter

Silver Medal: 46 mm in diameterBronze Medal: 50 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold, silver and bronze

Variations: E. Holzmair reports that there were 14 variations of this medal issued from 1764 to 1790

• Medal with attached eye

• Medal with a steel crimp-on eye

• Medal with no suspension eye (table medal) See Table Medal Part I, page 120 &121

**Designer:** Anton Wideman

**Manufacturer:** The National Mint in Vienna (Vienna Hauptmuntzampt)

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: The gold medal could be worn on a gold chain or on a Poppy red ribbon while the silver medal was

always worn on a red ribbon **Miniature:** None known







(Maria Theresia Gnadenmedaille)





**Date Issued:** 1765-1780

Reason Issued: As a reward for especially meritorious service to the Empress

Classes or Types: Two classes with three subdivisions

- Large Gold, Gold and Small Gold Medal
- Large Silver, Silver and Small Silver Medal

#### **Interesting Facts:**

- Maria Theresia was the first ruler to issue clear regulations for the award of medals
- The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus "grace" should be interpreted as "honor" therefore the title in today's terminology would be the Empress Maria Theresia Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

**Design:** A round medal with raised rim and with an attached suspension eyes at the top.

Obverse: A bust of the Archduchess Maria Theresia, facing to the viewers right and wearing a gown clasped at the shoulder. The bust of the empress is wearing a widow's vail and a diadem and has long flowing curly hair. The medal has a raised rim. Paralleling the rim around the upper two thirds of the medal is the inscription: M. THERESIA D.G. ROM. IMP. GER. HUNG. & BOH. REG. ARCH. AUST. Below the shoulder of the bust is the maker's name: **A.W.** (Anton Wideman)

Reverse: The Lion of Bohemia with St. Wenzel's crown on his head standing on a stylized platform. The lion holds in its right paw the Hungarian Patriarchs cross. Its left paw rests on the Austrian Herald's shield. Paralleling the top edge of the medal is an inscription: IUSTITIA ET CLEMENTIA. Translation: Justice and Clemency.

#### Weight:

• Large Gold Honor Medal: 15 Ducats (52.5 grams)

• Gold Honor Medal: 10 Ducats (35 grams)

• Small Gold Honor Medal: 5 Ducats (17.5 grams)

• Large Silver Honor Medal: 43.7 grams

• Silver Honor Medal: 35 grams

• Small Silver Honor Medal: 26.3 grams







(Maria Theresia Gnadenmedaille)



#### Size:

Large Gold Honor Medal: 48 mm in diameter
Gold Honor Medal: 39-42.5 mm in diameter

• Small Gold Medal: 33mm in diameter

Large Silver Honor Medal: 48 mm in diameter
Silver Honor Medal: 39-43.7 mm in diameter
Small Silver Honor Medal: 33 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold and Silver

#### Variations:

• Type I: As described above

• Type II: as described above but with the makers name I.Wurth.f (found on gold medals)

• Type III: As described above but with no maker's name

• Type IV: As described above but with the obverse inscription **MARIA THERESIA AUGUSTA** and with the makers name I. Vinazer.F (Found on Large Silver Medals)

#### **Designer:**

• Anton Franz Wideman

• Franz Xaver Wurth

• Christian Vinazer

• Giuseppe Toda

Manufacturer: Unknown Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: The gold medal could be worn on a gold chain or on a dark rose red ribbon while the silver medal

was always worn on a red ribbon

Attachments: None Miniature: None known



